

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A building material composition prepared from a particulate material selected from the group consisting of particulate polysaccharides and particulate polysaccharide derivatives, wherein the particulate material is prepared by a method comprising:

- (a) forming a feed composition comprising a member selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides and polysaccharide derivatives, and 35 wt. % to 99 wt. % of water, based on the total weight of the feed composition, wherein said member is at least one of swelled and dissolved in the feed composition;
- (b) contacting, in a mill, the feed composition with a gas stream, thereby converting simultaneously the water of said feed composition into water vapor, and said member of said feed composition into a solid state form of finely particulate material;
- (c) separating the particulate material from the gas stream; and
- (d) optionally drying the particulate material.

2. The building material composition of Claim 1 wherein said feed composition comprises from 50 wt. % to 80 wt. % of water, based on the total weight of the feed composition; said mill is a high rotary speed, gas stream impact mill; and said gas stream is a superheated stream of steam comprising a mixture selected from steam and an inert gas, and steam and air, said superheated stream of steam having a steam content of from 40 wt. % to 99 wt. %, based on the total weight of the superheated stream of steam.

3. The building material composition of Claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide derivative is selected from polysaccharide ester, polysaccharide ether and mixtures thereof.

4. The building material composition of Claim 3 wherein the polysaccharide ether is selected from cellulose ether, starch ether, guar ether and mixtures thereof.

5. The building material composition of Claim 3 wherein the polysaccharide ester is selected from cellulose ester, starch ester and mixtures thereof.

6. The building material composition of Claim 1 wherein said building material composition is selected from manually or mechanically applied renders, tile adhesives, floor levelling compositions, jointing fillers, mortars, spraycrete compositions, screeds, cement or lime/sandstone extrudates, filler compositions or distempers, silicate paints, mineral paints and emulsion paints.

7. The building material composition of Claim 1 wherein the particulate material contains, in each case based on the total weight of the particles, less than 5 wt. % with a particle size smaller than 15  $\mu\text{m}$ , less than 2 wt. % with a particle size smaller than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , and less than 1 wt. % with a particle size smaller than 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

8. The building material composition of Claim 1 wherein said member is present in said feed composition in an amount totaling from 1 wt. % to 65 wt. %, based on the total weight of the feed composition.

9. The building material composition of Claim 2 wherein said member is present in said feed composition in an amount totaling from 20 wt. % to 50 wt. %, based on the total weight of the feed composition.